

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4966

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 3798

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN ML

SUBJECT: US VETO OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON
SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

REF: STATE 259436

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CISSOKO IS IN PARIS AND DOES NOT RETURN TO BAMA KO UNTIL OCT 25 SO CHARGE CALLED ON MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL HALIDOU TOURE OCT 21 AND MADE POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL. TOURE LISTENED CAREFULLY AND THEN ASKED RHETORICALLY WHAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN SOUTH AFRICA. BETWEEN WHO ARE THESE NEGOTIATIONS BEING CONDUCTED? HE ASKED. AT WHAT STAGE ARE THEY? THE RESOLUTION VETOED BY THE U.S., FRANCE AND THE UK HAD REJECTED THE UNITED DESIRE OF BLACK AFRICA TO SHOW THEIR MORAL INDIGNATION OVER APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA. SPEAKING FOR THE GOM, TOURE SAID, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE U.S. VOTE SINCE THERE HAD BEEN NO MODIFICATION OF APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA. IN THE NAME OF THE GOM HE WISHED TO SAY THAT THE U.S. VETO HAD BEEN A "VERY PAINFUL ACT" THAT WOULD DELAY A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. CHARGE SAID KEY ISSUE HERE WAS NOT APARTHEID, WHICH U.S. CONDEMED VIGOROUSLY, BUT PROSPECT OF INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMBIA. THERE HAD BEEN PROGRESS ON RHODESIA; WE BELIEVED THERE HAD ALSO BEEN PROGRESS
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ON NAMBIA. TOURE DISAGREED. THERE HAD BEEN NO

REPEAT NO PROGRESS IN EITHER ZIMABEW, NAMBIA OR SOUTH AFRICA AND ANY LESSENING OF PRESSURE NOW WOULD REINFORCE SOUTH AFRICA'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE APARTHEID. DESPITE EXTENDED DISCUSSION, TOURE REJECTED IDEA THAT IAN SMITH HAD MADE ANY CHAGE WHATSOEVER, DESCRIBING HIS STATED POSITION AS A TRICK.

3. TOURE THEN SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA COULD NEVER GIVE INDEPENDENCE TO NAMBIA BECAUSE THAT COUNTRY WOULD THEN BE A THREAT TO SOUTH AFRICA. THE PRESSURE MUST, HE SAID, BE CONTINUED. MALI HAD APPLAUDED (SIC) THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS IN FAVOR OF RULE BY MAJORITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. SO FAR, THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE. MALI WAS STILL WAITING. WHEN TRUE CHANGE OCCURRED, MALI WOULD BE THE FIRST TO APPLAUD U.S. EFFORTS.

4. COMMENT: TOURE IS THE MFA'S LEADING RADICAL AND IS AGGRESSIVELY UNRECEPTIVE TO A MODERATE APPROACH TO ANYTHING. CISSOKHO WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE REASONABLE, BUT PROBABLY WOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN SKEPTICAL ABOUT U.S. CLAIM OF PROGRESS REGARDING NAMBIA. OF KEY IMPORTANCE, HOWEVER, IS FACT THAT OFFICIAL DAILY L'ESSOR HAS NOT MENTIONED EITHER RESOLUTION OR U.S. VETO. THE BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR NOW IS LACK OF PUBLIC, OFFICIAL CRITICISM.

DAWKINS

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